

**Bloomington Youth MLK AWARD NOMINATION - 2020**

<b>First Name</b>	Dr. Carla
<b>Last Name</b>	Campbell-Jackson
<b>Address 1</b>	731 Canyon Creek Road
<b>City</b>	Normal
<b>State</b>	IL
<b>Zip Code</b>	61761
<b>Phone</b>	309-530-5211
<b>email address</b>	<a href="mailto:dr.carlacampbell@gmail.com">dr.carlacampbell@gmail.com</a>
<b>Is the nominee aware that you are nominating them for this award?</b>	Yes
<b>First Name</b>	Ms. Ambria Kaelyn
<b>Last Name</b>	Maddox
<b>Address 1</b>	2301 Interlocken Drive
<b>City</b>	Bloomington
<b>State</b>	IL
<b>Zip Code</b>	61704
<b>Phone</b>	309-434-0151
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:ambriakm@gmail.com">ambriakm@gmail.com</a>
<b>What school does the student attend?</b>	Normal Community High School
<b>What grade is the student in?</b>	12th

**1. What are your reasons for nominating this individual?**

"If I can help someone along my journey, then my living shall not be in vain!"

As I think about the aforementioned quote, I immediately think about MS. AMBRIA MADDOX's commitment to the community and our country, at large! As a past Dr. Martin Luther King Human Relations' Recipient, I take significant pride in the people I nominate for this most prized award. MS. AMBRIA MADDOX certainly meets the expectations for all the award embodies. She is a young lady who is driven to excellence, while working diligently to ensure that social justices and racial equality remains a priority in her life's work.

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX maintains an impressive grade point average, while immersing herself in community organizations to further goodness, justice and acceptance of differences. She is a true hero at her high school and is admired by her peers, teachers and administrators. MS. AMBRIA MADDOX uses her diverse perspectives to challenge others to love and respect people, regardless of shallow differences.

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX's living shall not be in vain, as she completely lives out the philosophy Dr. King embraced!

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**2. How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to improving cooperation and fostering mutual respect among people of different racial, ethnic, religion and other backgrounds**

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX demonstrates commitment to improving cooperation and fostering mutual respect among people of different racial, ethnic, religion and other backgrounds. It is quite amazing how MS. AMBRIA MADDOX uses the military aspect to unite people of different backgrounds. This commonality has built strong relationships and has fostered collaboration and cooperation throughout the Bloomington-Normal community.

For the past four years, MS. AMBRIA MADDOX's community service engagement has been focused on helping military families. In 2013, prior to MS. AMBRIA MADDOX going into 6th grade, her brother Anthony lost his life while serving in the Army in Afghanistan.

Through her personal life experience, and grief journey, MS. AMBRIA MADDOX has demonstrated empathy and has seen the value in engaging with military, Gold Star families and local community to promote inclusion, while honoring our military fallen. She has used her time, and talent to assist the Americas Gold Star Families (AGSF) 501C3 organization with their Fallen Hero Tree of Honor project. She has created very unique and personalized ornaments of fallen heroes which are placed on Christmas trees at various locations in the community during the holiday season. Creating the ornaments is her way to honor her brother and other fallen soldiers. She also participates in the setup of the trees, decorating, and disassembling them on an annual basis. Her engagement with this project has brought the community together to bring hope, healing, increased community awareness and advocacy for honoring and remembering the sacrifice of our fallen military and their families.

This has been a humbling & healing experience for MS. AMBRIA MADDOX, and a true-life lesson. Until you experience and

understand each other's perspective, you will not understand or relate to different experiences. Being inclusive, communicating, and connecting brings change, and healing. Even though she hopes that others will not have to endure military loss, she understands the importance of accepting others, their differences, and the value of serving others.

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**3. How has nominee's efforts addressed discrimination, prejudice and the effects of past discrimination?**

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX embraces diversity, and respects individual differences. She has friends, associates, and established relationships with from various races, ethnic backgrounds, gender, sexual orientation, and religions. She is always kind and open minded, yet she seeks new experiences, engages in new learning opportunities to broaden her knowledge and personal understanding. She serves as good role model, she is inclusive, accepting others for who they are, including their life experiences.

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX is also kind, she loves others, and avoids prejudice. Even though it is difficult to discuss her brother's death, she has been able to connect with Gold Star Families, injured/disabled Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, community members, and dignitaries through her work on the fallen hero project and other military events.

This has allowed her to understand how different we are, how life experiences can impact and change us, and our beliefs.

Through these relationship it has allowed her to portray her authentic self, and accept others for who they are. Most can't imagine the loss she has experienced, especially at such a young age. She certainly couldn't manage the journey alone. She is now looking to be a member of the Best Buddies program at her school, which allows her to partner with a disabled student, to help them at school, and through their journey. We all have a story to tell, yet we must listen, and seek to understand. She has been a good role model, and a good citizen. She understands we cannot do this life alone. It requires positive support, and relationship building with all individuals, regardless of our differences or similarities. This will advance harmony between all mankind.

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX embodies the wonderful spirit of diversity and inclusion by

utilizing a common military platform to ensure  
peace and harmony!

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**4. What recognition has the nominee received for his/her service to others?**

MS. AMBRIA MADDOX has received many awards for her service to others, including:

-Americas Gold Star Families (AGSF) 501C3 organization for the Fallen Hero Tree of Honor project

-2019-2020-Selection for the Mentoring And Providing Scholarships (MAPS) Program.

-African American Academic Achievement recipient – 2016

-Bloomington Area Career Center (BACC), Geometry in Construction, learned geometry principles then applied them using real life construction experiences to create a shed, a handicap ramp, playhouses for various causes - 2017

-100 Black Men Mentee

-Local chapter and 3rd place National winner of the African American History Challenge competition - 2017

-Alternate for the Financial literacy challenge, and contributor to the development of the case study, 3rd place national winner - 2018

-Bloomington/Normal Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics. (ACT-SO) – 2017 Silver medalist in Sculpture (earning a score of 97)

-2018 Girls World Expo Merit Award Winner and conference vendor participant

-2018 graduate of Barbizon school of Modeling and Acting

The award that she is most proud of is the NAACP's Harry Hightower "Youth Community Service Award", as the award was created to celebrate the success of youth who are

involved in community service throughout the Bloomington-Normal area, as a quintessential community activist and youth leader!

Just as MS. AMBRIA KAELYN MADDOX deserved the aforementioned awards, she likewise, deserves the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Award, as she embodies his spirit of resiliency, hope and determination for a more just and equitable world! I HIGHLY recommend MS. AMBRIA KAELYN MADDOX for this most prestigious award!

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I agree that the information provided on this nomination form is true and accurate. I also agree that if any information provided is not true the nomination will be void.

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Yes